

**AGENDA ITEM V**

**PROPOSED LETTER OF INTENT**

**SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY**

**B.S. IN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**

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##### **STAFF SUMMARY**

###### **Appropriateness with the Role, Scope and Mission**

The proposed program is consistent with the role, scope and mission of the Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU).

###### **Potential for Unnecessary Program Duplication**

There is no baccalaureate degree program in this area offered by institutions in Louisiana. The Department of Industrial Technology at SLU currently offers a two-year Associate of Applied Science degree with a concentration in Occupational Safety and Health. Delgado Community College in New Orleans offers a A.A.S in Safety and Health Technology; Nicholls State University in Thibodaux offers an A.S in Petroleum Services-Safety Technology; University of Louisiana at Lafayette offers a B.S. in Industrial Technology with a concentration in Safety.

The development of the proposed OSHE program was initiated by a request from the Greater Baton Rouge Industrial Managers Association (GBRIMA), whose representatives approached SLU in 1994 requesting a program for training safety and health professionals. Their request resulted in the current two-year program, which began in 1996. The GBRIMA again approached SLU, requesting expansion to a four-year program. An April 2002 survey overwhelmingly supported SLU's concept of a bachelor's degree in Occupational Safety, Health and Environment. Letters of support from industry representatives were included in the document from SLU.

The proposal indicates that the OSHE program will not adversely affect any existing program at a Louisiana institution. It could in fact stimulate growth in the related two-year programs by offering students an opportunity to continue their education toward a baccalaureate degree at SLU.

The staff observes also that American Society of Safety Engineers' (ASSE) *College and University Directory of Safety and Related Degree Programs* (2002-2003) lists only twenty-nine such programs in the United States with thirteen additional programs offering a minor. Programs with an option or concentration in safety are not considered academically equivalent to programs which offer a bachelor's degree, nor are they eligible for the same level of accreditation by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology/Applied Science Accreditation Commission (ABET/ASAC).

### **Consistency with Desegregation Agreement**

The Desegregation Settlement Agreement does not provide for the development of a B.S. in Occupational Safety, Health and Environment (OSHE) at any predominantly black institution. Hence, mandates of the Settlement Agreement do not apply.

### **Adherence to specific Board of Regents criteria for funding**

Additional expenses associated with developing the OSHE program are indicated in the chart which follows.

	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>
Faculty	\$ 30,000	\$30,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Support Personnel	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Library/Ed. Resources	2,500	2,000	1,500	1,000
Supplies/Services	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Equipment	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$46,000</b>	<b>\$45,500</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>	<b>\$74,500</b>

SLU proposes several methods of handling these new expenses.

1. Existing grants, new grants, and donations from industry supporters will be used to acquire additional equipment for new courses, faculty enhancement and course development.
2. While no new facilities will be requested, arrangements with the Louisiana State Police to use the facilities of their HazMat Emergency Training Academy in Holden, LA, are in negotiation.
3. One half-time faculty is anticipated for years one and two, and one full-time faculty member is anticipated by the beginning of the third year. Several methods for funding additional costs of the OSHE program may include but are not limited to: existing faculty lines, unfilled positions, offering courses through Continuing Education, additional tuition revenues generated by students enrolled in a new program.

No additional funding will be requested. Internal re-allocations and the methods listed above will be used to cover additional costs of developing the OSHE program.

### **STAFF ANALYSIS**

The staff concludes that the Letter of Intent for the projected B.S. program in OSHE meets

requirements of **Academic Affairs Policy 2.4 - Letter of Intent for Projected New Academic Programs**. The staff commends SLU for addressing this educational need within the State and recommends approval.

***STAFF RECOMMENDATION***

***The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the proposed Letter of Intent for a projected B.S. program in Occupational Health, Safety and Environment (CIP Code 150701) at Southeastern Louisiana University, effective immediately.***